

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 04241 051806Z
ACTION AF-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7640

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 4241

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN, OTRA, NI
SUBJECT: BILATERAL ECONOMIC WORKING GROUPS

REF: EASUM-SMITH TELCON - APRIL 5

1. EMBASSY WOULD MUCH APPRECIATE LATEST DETAILS ON AGENDA FOR WORKING GROUPS INCLUDING UPDATE OF POSITION PAPERS FOR TALKS SCHEDULED FEBRUARY-MARCH. WE DO NOT HAVE COPY OF LATTER HERE.

2. WE HAVE ASKED ON DAILY BASIS FOR NAMES OF MEMBERS OF NIGERIAN DELEGATION. PERSONNEL KEEP SHIFTING BUT STEADY THEME IS THAT A PERMSEC WILL HEAD EACH WORKING GROUP. LATEST POSSIBILITY IS THAT COMMISSIONER (PROBABLY AGRICULTURE) WILL HEAD DELEGATION BUT THIS FAR FROM CERTAIN.

3. NOW THAT TWO HEADS OF STATE HAVE GIVEN PERSONAL SANCTION TO DATES AND IMPORTANCE OF UPCOMING TALKS IN US IT IS CLEAR THAT JOINT PREPARATIONS WITH NIGERIANS FOR TRIPS WILL FULLY OCCUPY NIGERIAN COUNTERPARTS AND PREVENT EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF MOSER VISIT AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED. WE THUS SUGGEST THAT MOSER TRIP BE DEFERRED UNTIL AFTER WORKING SESSIONS. WE MOREOVER BELIEVE THAT MOSER CAN PROVIDE VALUABLE HELP IN PREPARING VISIT AT U.S. END, ESPECIALLY IN REGARD TO TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER WORKING GROUP.

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4. GIVEN MOMENTUM, INTEREST AND PRECISE COMMITMENT MADE BY PRESIDENT AND HEAD OF STATE, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT TALKS TAKE PLACE LAST WEEK OF APRIL AS DISCUSSED BETWEEN HEADS OF STATE AND NOT SLIP INTO MAY. FMG HAS SET ITS SIGHTS ON THESE DATES WITH DELEGATION PLANNING TO DEPART LAGOS NIGHT OF APRIL 22 AND ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON APRIL 23.

RESERVATIONS AT GEORGETOWN HOLIDAY INN APRIL 23-25 TENTATIVELY
ARRANGED BY HOLIDAY INN INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVES DURING
PRESIDENTIAL VISIT HERE.
EASUM

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NNN

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